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Comparative evaluation of biomed InTray® Colorex MRSA with BD ESwab collection kit/ BBL™ CHROMagar® MRSA II**Kiran H Bijlani, Marcela Gomez, Rowena Matias, Ana Najafi, Ron Najafi and Sridhar Arumugam**
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Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is one of the most dangerous antibiotic-resistant pathogens and a common cause of most health-care acquired infections (HAIs). MRSA causes a range of illnesses, from skin and wound infections to pneumonia and bloodstream infections that can cause sepsis and ultimately lead to death. The CDC and WHO have listed MRSA as a serious threat infection and it also is included in The National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-resistant Bacteria. Early, reliable, and accurate diagnosis of MRSA in a clinical setting is critical for the treatment and control of infection in hospitals and the community. To address this, we comparatively evaluated the efficacy of two commercial diagnostic systems, Biomed InTray® Colorex and the conventional BDTM ESwab Regular Collection Kit/ BBL™ CHROMagar® (ESwab + CHROMagar®) to recover 51 MRSA clinical isolates. The percentage recovery of MRSA clinical isolates in InTray® and in ESwab + CHROMagar® was 99% and 75%, respectively. Our findings suggest that the InTray® was more efficient than ESwab + CHROMagar® in recovering MRSA clinical isolates.

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